

Minutes
of the Sulhamstead Parish Council Meeting held via
Zoom on Thursday 17th September 2020 at 7pm

Present: Mrs Margaret Baxter (Chair), Mrs Rosemary Sanders-Rose, Mrs Liz Penston, Mr Ivan Wise, Ms Teresa Sosna (Vice Chair), Mrs Diane Woodward, Mrs Fiona Jones, Mr Pete Prewer and Mr Ross Mackinnon (District Councillor)

In attendance: Elle Gibbons (Clerk)

1) Apologies for Absence

Mr Roger Ashfield had given prior notice that he wished to step down as a Councillor. The Parish Council thanked Roger for his many years of service as a Councillor and commented that his knowledge of the local district and community was greatly appreciated and would be sorely missed. The Parish Council wished Roger well for the future.

2) Declarations of Interest by Councillors

None

3) Open Forum

There were no members of the public present.

4) Approval of Minutes of 16th July 2020

The minutes were approved as a true record.

5) Matters arising from Minutes of 16th July 2020

SUN-E have funds available to purchase a Defibrillator and another grant had also become available. The Parish Council would apply for the additional grant. **Action: Clerk.**

The Chairman would contact Burghfield Parish Council for their input on potential locations and Councillor Woodward would investigate Tesco as a potential location. **Action: Chairman and Councillor Woodward**

6) Update from District Councillor Mackinnon

Councillor Mackinnon advised that his responsibilities now included economic development, as well as being on the District Council Executive with responsibility for finance and property for West Berkshire.

Councillor Mackinnon reported that WBC had allocated funds to a Covid Local Recovery grant scheme – each council member can bid for up to a total of £1,000 for their area. The funds should be used to support one or more of the Council's priorities for recovery as set out in the Recovery Strategy. The Parish Council agreed to identify areas where funds would be helpful for Covid recovery and bid accordingly by December 2020.

On the subject of Covid-19, Councillor Mackinnon stated the Recovery Strategy was structured around three core elements; health, education and the local economy.

Councillor Mackinnon reported there had been a recent traveller incursion in Bradfield, resulting in a meeting between West Berkshire Council and Thames Valley Police to discuss how traveller incursions were dealt with. He advised of a national Government plan regarding criminalising trespass with intent to stay.

Councillor Mackinnon advised on the West Berkshire Community Climate Bond. The Community Municipal Investment remained open until mid-October so there was still opportunity for those who have not yet done so to invest if they wish, investment starts from £5. The Bond, which aims to raise £1m for green projects had currently reached £700,000. Further information can be found at <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/wbcmi>

Councillor Mackinnon informed the Parish Council that the planning issue with Benhams Farm Barns had been escalated straight to the Head of Planning. He agreed to follow up on this. **Action: District Councillor Mackinnon**

Councillor Mackinnon mentioned that all WBC meetings are now cast on YouTube.

7) Local Matters

a. Public Open Space (POS)

i. Reopening of Play Park

A risk assessment would be carried out before reopening. The Chairman, Councillor Wise and Councillor Jones agreed to convene to carry out the risk assessment. **Action: Chairman, Councillor Wise and Councillor Jones**

ii. Bridge Repairs

The previous bridge repairs had been vandalised again. The damage had been repaired with more robust fixings. This crime had been reported to the Police and the Parish Council unanimously agreed to invest in a security camera for the area.

b. Litter Picking

There is a vacancy for a litter picker which would be advertised.

c. Livestock Incident – early August

There had been a livestock incident in early August in the field by Hollybush/Shortheath Lane, resulting in multiple livestock fatalities. The incident had been reported to the RSPCA and passed to DEFRA who were currently investigating the case. The Chairman would follow up with the RSPCA as there had been concerns raised over the welfare of other livestock in the area. **Action: Chairman**

d. Traveller Incursions

Councillors noted that there had been a recent traveller incursion in the field owned by Home Farm.

e. Overgrown Hedgerows

Councillor Woodward commented on the growth of hedgerows around the Parish. It was reported that they would be cut back in the coming weeks, however if no action had been taken by the end of September it would be raised with WBC.

8) Planning Applications

a) Planning Decisions

19/02792/FUL, 25 Abbots Road, Burghfield Common

Appeal Dismissed July

20/01118/HOUSE, Tyle Mill, Sulhamstead

Conditional Approval Aug

20/01353/HOUSE, 19 Bluebell Drive, Burghfield Common

Granted Aug

20/01287/COND1, Canal Cottage, Sulhamstead

Approved Aug

20/01545/FUL, Thames Valley Police Training Centre, Sulhamstead

Granted Sept

20/01269/HOUSE & 20/01270/LBC2, Barnyards, White House Green, Sulhamstead

Granted Sept

b) New Applications

20/01069/HOUSE, 23 Wises Firs, Sulhamstead

Awaiting decision

20/01645/HOUSE, Crofters Cottage, Hollybush Lane

Awaiting decision

20/01856/HOUSE, 8 Shortheath Lane, Sulhamstead

Awaiting decision

20/01928/HOUSE, 4 Bramble Close, Burghfield Common

Awaiting decision

20/01717/FUL, Home Farm, St Michaels Lane, Sulhamstead

Awaiting decision

c) Solar Farm Extension

Sulhamstead Solar Field had applied for a 6-month extension to their project. The Parish Council had concerns about the proposed extension and would draft a response to WBC.

Action: Chairman

9) Finance

a. Account Balances at 31st August 2020:

General Account: £ 8,167.38

CIL Account: £ 111,219.44

POS Account: £ 43,347.59

b. CIL Funding

i. The Willink School

A CIL funding application from The Willink School had previously been granted and would be paid accordingly. **Action: Clerk**

ii. Garlands Junior School

A CIL funding application from Garlands Junior School had previously been granted and would be paid accordingly. **Action: Clerk**

iii. Sulhamstead and Ufton Nerve Village Hall

The Chairman declared an interest in this item and did not comment.

Sulhamstead and Ufton Nerve Village Hall had submitted an application totalling

£10,000. As this project would have significant benefit for the Parish, the Council granted the maximum award of £10,000.

The Clerk would notify the Village Hall that their CIL funding application had been granted and payment would be made accordingly. **Action: Clerk**

iv. SUN School

SUN School had previously enquired about submitting an application. At the time of the meeting no formal application had been received and the Clerk would follow up on the status of the application. **Action: Clerk**

10) Review of Post/ Any Other Business

There was no post to review and no additional items of AOB.

Next Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting would take place on Thursday 20th November 2020 at 7pm, format and venue to be confirmed.

Mrs Elle Gibbons (Clerk)

Distribution

All Councillors

Clerk – Sulhamstead Parish Council

Website

Notice Boards

District Councillor Mackinnon